Remarks

Allowance of pending claims 1, 2, 7, 10, 11, 16, 19, 20, 23 & 24 is respectfully requested.

By this paper, independent claims 1 & 10 are amended to specify that operation of a hardware component contained in the computer is stabilized when the predetermined test result has been obtained, and that the stabilizing of the operation of the hardware component includes employing at least one of a setup for specifying a pulse width modulation type using a switching signal at a fixed frequency for the power supply and a setup for disabling a function to suppress power consumption. Support for the amended claim language can be found throughout the specification as filed, including, for example, page 5, lines 1-7, page 24, lines 4-22, and page 27, lines 13-21. No new matter is added to the application by any amendment presented. Based on the amendments to independent claims 1 & 10, dependent claims 3-6, 8, 9, 11-15, 17, 18, 21 & 22 are canceled herein without prejudice.

Substantively, prior claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' Admission of Prior Art (AAPA) and Kobayashi et al. (Japan Patent No.: JP 6-242978; hereinafter Kobayashi). This rejection is respectfully, but most strenuously, traversed to any extent deemed applicable to the claims presented.

An "obviousness" determination requires an evaluation of whether the prior taken as a whole would suggest the claimed invention taken as a whole to one of ordinary skill in the art. In evaluating claimed subject matter as a whole, the Federal Circuit has expressly mandated that functional claim language be considered in evaluating a claim relative to the prior art. Applicants respectfully submit that the application of these standards to the independent claims presented herewith leads to the conclusion that the recited subject matter would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art based on the applied art.

As recited in claim 1, for example, Applicants' invention comprises a method for controlling power of a computer in which at least a power-on self test for hardware is carried out before shifting into an operating system process when the power is initially turned on. The method includes: obtaining a result of the power-on self test; and automatically turning

on the power again a predefined period of time after stopping the power supply to the computer when a predetermined test result of the power-on self test has been obtained. In accordance with the method, operation of a hardware component contained in the computer is stabilized when the predetermined test result has been obtained. The stabilizing of the operation of the hardware component comprises employing at least one of a setup for specifying a pulse width modulation type using a switching signal at a fixed frequency for the power supply and a setup for disabling a function to suppress power consumption.

Applicants respectfully submit that a careful reading of AAPA and Kobayashi fails to uncover any teaching, suggestion or implication of various aspects of Applicants' above-summarized invention.

Applicants' admission of prior art contained in the Background of the Invention, and in particular, at page 2, lines 11-17 of the specification expresses the state of art as follows:

> Such a power-on problem may frequently be detected through the POST described above and if it has been detected through the POST, the system indicates on the display an error code corresponding to detected problem and problematic conditions and then stops the start up operation. Then, the user would turn off the system and then turn it on again to restart it with some anxiety.

A careful reading of AAPA fails to uncover any teaching or suggestion of the functionality recited in Applicants' independent claims 1 & 10 presented herewith. For example, Applicants recite control processing which automatically turns on the power again after stopping the power supply to the computer when the predetermined test result of the power-on self test has been obtained. Additionally, Applicants recite that this automatically turning on of the power occurs a predefined period of time after the power has been stopped to the computer when the predefined test result of the power-on self test has been obtained. Still further, Applicants recite that operation of a hardware component contained in the computer is stabilized when the predetermined test result has been obtained. This stabilizing of the operation of the hardware component comprises employing at least one of a setup for specifying a pulse width modulation type using a switching signal at a fixed frequency for the power supply and a setup for disabling a function to suppress power consumption.

In comparison, the AAPA expressly states that the user must turn off the system and then turn it on again to restart it with some anxiety. Thus, in the AAPA, the user is aware that a problem has been detected by the power-on self test, and that the user must interactively attempt restarting of the computer. Applicants' invention avoids this user anxiety, and user interaction by intelligently determining that for a predetermined test result of the power-on self test, that the processing can automatically turn on the power again after stopping the power supply to the computer and after waiting a predefined period of time.

Further, Applicants' independent claims recite that operation of a hardware component contained in the computer is stabilized when the predetermined test result has been obtained. This stabilizing of the operation of the hardware component includes at least one of a setup for specifying pulse width modulation type using a switching signal at a fixed frequency for the power supply, and a setup for disabling a function to suppress power consumption. Applicants respectfully submit that AAPA does not address either of these further characterizations.

The Office Action acknowledges that AAPA does not teach the restarting of the computer occurring only when a predetermined test result has been obtained. The Office Action cites the teachings of Kobayashi and alleges that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Kobayashi with AAPA.

Kobayashi discloses a fault recovery processing system which automatically turns on and off a power source repeatedly by a specified frequency when the system is started up even in case of a fault which is not a power circuit fault and to start the operation as if the fault is a temporary fault (see abstract).

Applicants respectfully submit that Kobayashi is not believed to teach or suggest the specific characterizations recited in their independent claims 1 & 10 wherein operation of a hardware component contained in the computer is stabilized when the predetermined test result has been obtained. In accordance with Applicants' invention, this stabilizing of the hardware component comprises employing at least one of a setup for specifying a pulse width modulation type using a switching signal at a frequency for the power supply, and a setup for disabling a function to suppress power consumption. A review of the available

material of Kobayashi fails to uncover any teaching or suggestion of a pulse width modulation type obtained using a switching signal at a fixed frequency for the power supply, or of a setup for disabling a function to suppress power consumption during stabilization of the operation of a hardware component within the computer.
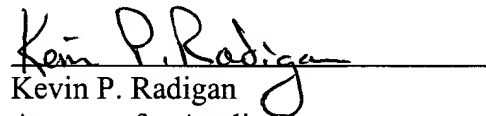
For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of AAPA and Kobayashi does not suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art their invention as recited in the independent claims presented.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness rejections stated in the Office Action, i.e., to any extent deemed applicable to the claims presented.

All pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss this case with Applicants' attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' representative at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin P. Radigan
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No.: 31,789

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HESLIN ROTHENBERG FARLEY & MESITI P.C.
5 Columbia Circle
Albany, New York 12203-5160
Telephone: (518) 452-5600
Facsimile: (518) 452-5579